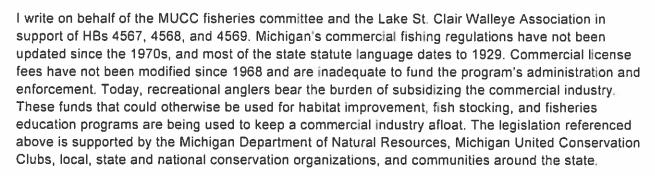
Uniting Citizens to Conserve, Protect and Enhance Michigan's Natural Resources and Outdoor Heritage
PO 80x 30235 Lansing, MI 48909 [800,777,6720 P] www.mucc.org

October 5, 2019

RE: HB 4567, HB 4568, HB 4569

Dear Chairman Howell and House Natural Resources Committee Members:



The Great Lakes are a big factor in Michigan's economy. Michigan, like other Great Lakes states, has seen outdoor recreation generate billions in economic output and hundreds of thousands of jobs. Last year 1.1 million people bought a fishing license generating \$26 million dollars. Those dollars along with monies from the Dingell-Johnson Act — which put a fee on fishing equipment in order to fund the state's wildlife conservation and management activities go towards statewide conservation efforts last year, including bald eagle banding and monitoring work. Money needed for conservation and management activities does not come from Michigan's taxpayers. It comes through the license and equipment purchases made by Michigan's sportsmen and sportswomen. Michigan's hunters and anglers fund conservation and management of many species that would not otherwise be possible. All of the funds from licenses, bait and tackle, fuel, food, lodging and a whole host of other incidentals go towards conserving species across the state. Michigan's sport and recreational fishery is something that should not be put at risk by allowing commercial fishing to be able to take game fish.

Taking into account the value of the sport and recreational fishing in all aspects of Michigan's economy, tourism, national exposure, etc. I am asking that this committee pass this package of bills.



House Natural Resource Committee October 5, 2019 Page 2

Sincerely,

Tim Muir President- Lake St. Clair Walleye Association MUCC Fisheries Committee Chair